

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1869

S. P. 592

In Senate, April 19, 1973

Approved by a Majority of the Committee on Reference of Bills pursuant to Joint Rule No. 10. Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Berry of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

AN ACT to Institute a Priority Program Budget System.

Preamble; legislative findings of fact. Whereas, detailed scrutiny of the State Budget would promote efficiency and economy; and

Whereas, greater accountability of and responsibility by agency and departmental heads in the preparation of their individual budgets is a goal of efficient management; and

Whereas, assignment of priorities to programs is a valuable tool to the Legislature in determining needs of State Government; and

Whereas, it is the belief of the Legislature that efficiencies and savings may well be realized from the establishment of a comprehensive system of budget preparation.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 5, § 1668, additional. Title 5 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section 1668 to read as follows:

§ 1668. Priority Program System

The Bureau of the Budget in the Department of Finance and Administration shall require the heads of all agencies and departments of the State Government to prepare their individual budget in a manner which utilizes the Priority Program System.

Under the Priority Program System each program shall be listed together with its requested appropriation. Each program shall be assigned a priority number commencing with the number one for the program with the highest

priority and continuing through all other programs to the program with the lowest priority. The priority list shall provide for funding of those programs in the list of priorities that can be fully funded within a maximum dollar limitation to be set for each department or agency by the Governor or his designee. If a program cannot be fully funded it shall, nevertheless, appear in the listing and be assigned a priority number.

All programs shall be justified as to cost, efficiency and need by a written statement attached to the listing.

Nothing in this section shall in any way limit the Governor from adding, deleting or reordering programs or priorities in departmental or agency budgets.

Final determination of the State budget shall depend on the normal legislative process as outlined in the Constitution of Maine.

Sec. 2. Application. The Priority Program Budget System outlined in this Act shall be used in preparing the State Budget for the biennium commencing July 1, 1975.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This will establish a Priority Program Budget System as the method for preparing the 1975-1977 biennium budget. It will replace the present **add-on method** which fails to adequately evaluate programs in the so-called Part One Budget. Under the present system, no method has been established to examine continuing programs which account for the largest percentage of State expenditures. This legislation will help the Legislature evaluate the total budget in a much more meaningful way.